

## Message Text

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65

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAM-01 IO-13 SSM-03

SCCT-01 EB-07 MC-02 /112 W  
----- 092899

R 231425Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6313

INFO USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, EG, LE, SY, XF

SUBJ: CAIRO PRESS FEATURES HOUGHTON-MACK MISSION AND POSSIBLE  
GOLAN BORDER OPENING

1. PRESS ACCORDED PROMINENCE TO HOUGHTON-MACK MISSION TO  
LEBANESE RIGHTISTS. ALL REPORTS SOURCED TO NEWS AGENCIES  
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ALTHOUGH CERTAIN AMOUNT OF ORIGINAL LOCAL INPUT SEEMS TO HAVE

CREPT IN. GUMHURRIYA NOTED US ENOVYS MET WITH SARKIS AND SCHEDULED TO SEE FRANJIYA AUG 23. IT REPORTED "USG INTENTION" TO ESTABLISH PERMANENT MISSION IN RIGHTISTS AREA DESCRIBING THIS PLAN AS TANTAMOUNT TO TACIT RECOGNITION OF PARTION, BUT IT ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED OFFICIAL US DESCRIPTION OF MISSION AS OF ONE WEEK DURATION. AHRAH REPORTED TO THE US MISSION IS IN JOUNIEH, "TOWN RIGHTISTS DESIGNATED AS FUTURE CAPITAL OF CHRISTIAN LEBANON." IT NOTED RIGHTISTS SPOKESMAN'S CLAIM THAT US NOW UNDERSTANDS IT MUST DEAL WITH FREE LEBANON AS INDEPENT STATE, BUT ALSO INDICATED DEPT SPOKESMAN COMMENT THAT MISSION IS IN NO SENSE RECOGNITION OF PARTITION. REPORT CITES FALANGIST REBUTTED SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT WITH QUESTION "WHAT THEN DOES IT MEAN"? BRIEF AKHBAR REPORT IGNORED RECOGNITION ANGLE, SAYING ONLY THAT MISSION TEMPORARY. FINALLY, EGYPTIAN GAZETTE COVERAGE MENTIONED THAT "AMERICAN GOVT KNOWN TO HAVE PLANS FOR PERMANENT MISSION IN CHRISTIAN ENCLAVE", BUT IT, TOO, PRINTED US VERSION THAT HOUGHTON AND MACK WILL STAY ONLY A WEEK. GAZETTE NOTED THAT LENGTH OF STAY IS "SENSITIVE ISSUE" BECAUSE PERMANET US MISSION WOULD AMOUNT TO ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PARTITION.

2 IN COVERSATION WITH POLCOUNS, ARAB LEAGUE ASSISTANT SYG FARRA WAS NON COMMITAL ON MISSION. BEYONE EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER ITS LENGTH. HE SEEMED SATISFIED THAT MISSION TEMPORARY.

3. ISRAELI-SYRIAN RELATIONS: PAPERS PLAYED UP "IMPROVEMENT AND EASING OF TENSIONS" BETWEEN SYRIAN AND ISRAEL AND REPORTS ON NEGOTIATIONS FOR "OPENING OF GOLAN BORDER." ALL PAPERS MENTION THAT "OPENING WAY TO FAMILY REUNIONS" IS BASIS OF POSSIBLE ARRANGEMENT, BUT GLOSS OVER THIS TO STRESS THAT WAY CLEARED BY COOPERATION ON LEBANON. AKHBAR WROTE WITH HAVY IRONY THAT TENSIONS BETWEEN TWO HAVE EASED, AND ISRAEL "TALKS ABOUT SYRIA WITH GREAT LOVE AND AFFECTION" WHILE IT LODGES COMPLAINT WITH UN ON EGYPTIAN VIOLATION OF CEASEFIRE ACCORD. PAPER SAYS THIS HARDLY UNUSUAL IN VIEW THEIR COOPERATION "IN SLAUGHTERING PALESTINIAN PEOPLE". ISRAEL RECOGNIZES FAVOR DONE HER BY SYRIA AND SO "OPENS BORDERS AND OFFERS AID TO RIFAT AL ASAD, ISRAEL'S MAJOR ALLY." AKHBAR CLAIMS IT WOULD FEEL NO ASTONISHMENT IF ISRAELI-SYRIAN COOPERATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LED TO EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS.

4. ARAB SUMMIT: REPORTING ON ARAB SUMMIT ON LEBANON INDICATES PROGRESS PAINFUL AT BEST. SIX ARAB COUNTRIES HAVE OFFICIALY NOTIFIED AL OF THEIR CONSENT (SUDAN, KUWAIT, MOROCCO, BAHRIAIN, TUNISIA, AND YAR). NONE HAVE YET COME FORTH WITH OFFER TO HOST MEETING, AND ALS PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY ON BAIIS OF CAIRO OR ALEXANDRIA AS VENUE.

5. AKHBAR AND GUMHURRIYA BOTH SEIZED ON CHAMOUN OBJECTION TO LEBANESE PARTICIPATION IN SUMMIT AS EVIDENCE OF HIS DE-TERMINATION TO PARTITION LEBANON. "ZIONIST-ISOLATIONISH UGLY FACE OF CHAMOUNIST GANG EXPOSED" IN HIS ALLIANCE WITH ISRAEL AND RECRUITMENT OF MERCENARIES. "TRUE LEBANON" APPRECIATES SINCERE AND "PIONEERING- EGYPTIAN ROLE SUPPORTING COUNTRY'S UNITY.EDITORIAL ALSO MENTIONS NEGATIVE ROLE OF SYRIAN BA'ATHISTS.

6. PAPERS ALSO REPORT FIGHTING ON ALL FRONTS. JUMBLATT "WAR IN DEFENSE OFLEBANESE UNITY" CONTRASTED WITH FALANGIST PLANS FOR LIQUIDATION OF PALESTINIANS. FALANGIST OFFICIAL QUOTED AS SAYING RANDOM SHELLING OF CIVILIANS WILL CONTINUE UNTIL END OF WAR. FALANGISTS AND PALESTINIANS CONTACTS SEEKING AVOID ALL OUT BATTLE FOR MOUNTAINS, WHILE PLO REPORTED AS REJECTING SYRIAN PROPOSALS FOR RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS. PLO DESCRIBES PROPOSALS AS SEEKING SURRENDER OF PALESTINIANS AND "POLITICAL SOURCES" INDICATE THERE NO HOPE FOR POSITIVE RESULTS OF SYRIAN INITIATIVE. PROPOSALS SAID TO INCLUDE RETURN OF SA'AIQA FORCES T THEIR POSITIONS IN LEBANON AND REQUEST THAT PALESTIIIAN RESISTANCE CEASE OPPOS-ITION TO SYRIAN MILITARY ACTION AND END PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN.

7. PROBLEMS IN SYRIA. MEANWHILE, PAPERS HEADLINE "DAILY EXPLOSIONS AND SHOTS" IN DAMASCUS AND REPORT OFFICIAL SYRIAN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECENT BOMBINGS. STORIES SAY BOMBINGS HAVE PRECIPATED MASS ARRESTS, AMID RIOTS AND STREET FIGHT-ING. ARRESTEES REPORTEDLY LINKED TO IRAQ AND UNNAMED PAL-ESTINIAN GROUPS OPPOSED TO SYRIAN REGIME.

8. MARXIST WEEKLY ROSE AL-YUSEF SOUGHT TO IMPROVE IMAGE OF SOVIETS WITH RENEWED REPORT THAT USSR HAS STOPPED ARMS SHIP-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MENTS TO SYRIA. WESTERN AND SYRIAN SOURCES CREDITED WITH STATEMENT THAT SOVIET ACTION IS IN PROTEST TO "CONSPIRACY OF DAMASCUS WITH US AND ISRAEL AGAINST PALESTINIANS AND LEB-ANESE NATIONALISTS". SOVIET EMBARGO SAID TO INCLUDE AMMUNITION AND SPARE PARTS AS WELL AS ARMS.

9. PAPERS ALSO CARRY PHOTOGRAPH OF GRIM LOOKING SADAT, MUBARAK, SALIM AND FAHMY WITH AL REP AL-KHULI IN ALEXANDRIA AUG 22. REPORTS SUPPLIED NO INDICATION OF SUBSTANCE OF THIS MEETING.

10. COMMENT: PRESS REACTION TO ISRAEL-SYRIAN CONTACTS ON GOLAN IS THUS FAR STANDARD ATTACK ON THEIR COOPERATION ON LEBANON. WE WOULD EXPECT THEY WILL SOON BEGIN TREATING THIS AS HARBINGER OF ISRAELI CARTE BLANCE FOR SYRIA TO BEGIN

MASSIVE AND DECISIVE MILITARY ACTION.  
EILTS

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